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(54) **Headstone with laser etched image**

(57) A plaque for a headstone comprises a holographic image of the deceased engraved or etched into a surface eg gold or silver, by a computer controlled laser. The image is sealed by a transparent cover.

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THE PERSONALISED IMAGED HEADSTONE

This invention relates to a personalised imaged headstone.

Headstones are commonly used as a means of identifying a grave, tomb or a place of remembrance. There is a special type of headstone where a photograph or a sand blasted image of the deceased is implanted onto the headstone. Headstone are made from much varied materials such as marble or stone. The headstone itself is frequently adapted to take a plasticised photograph of the deceased or is, in some cases sandblasted directly onto the marble.

Photographs and Sandblasting, however, do tend to depreciate with climatic changes such as infra red rays from the sun causing fading to occur or, in the case of sandlasted imaging, inviromental pollution such as acid rain causing erosion.

According to the present invention there is provided a photographic image which is recreated from a photograph of the deceased via a computerised method of converting the photograph into a programe which is then transfered to gold or silver or any hard based metal or man made material which has been surfaced prepared to accept the image. The result of the computerised transfer is a hologramtic image of the deceased which is inserted into the headstone and sealed for life behind a transparent encasement.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows in perspective, the headstone with the photographic image in place.

Referring to the drawing, The Personalised Imaged Headstone comprises a headstone 2 and an image 1 in the form of a computerised recreation of a photograph of the departed which is processed via programming a computer to laser etch print out an exact hologramatical image 1 onto gold, silver, or any hard based material which has been surfaced to a smooth finish.

In order to protect the image 1 from the elements and enviromental pollution the image is inserted into the headstone 2 and is sealed with a transparent material which has protective qualities and thereby making the image 1 impervious to erosion by the enviromental conditions.

CLAIMS

1. A Personalised Imaged Headstone comprising a headstone and a computerised image of a deceased person which is created by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the person which is then laser etched printed onto gold or silver or any hard based materials with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact hologramatic replica of the person.
2. A Personalised Imaged Headstone as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a computerised image of a deceased pet such as a dog or a cat which is created by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the pet which is then laser etched printed onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact hologramtic replica of the pet.
3. A Personalised Imaged Headstone as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2. wherein a computerised image of an innate object is created by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the innate object which is then laser etched printed onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact hologramatic replica of the innate object.
4. A Personalised Image Headstone as claimed in Claims 1-3 wherein a computerised image of a living person is created by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the living person which is then laser etched printed onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact hologramatic replica of the living person.
5. A Personalised Imaged Headstone substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1. And 2 of the accompanying drawing.

Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows

CLAIMS.

1. A Personalised Imaged Headstone comprising a headstone and a computerised image of a deceased person which is recreated by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the person, which is then laser etched printed onto gold, silver, or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact hologramatic replica of the photograph which is then sealed in a transparent material then inserted into the headstone.
2. A Personalised Imaged Headstone as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a computerised image of a deceased pet, such as a dog or cat, which is recreated by means of a computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the pet which is then laser etched onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to create an exact replica of the photograph as an hologramatic replica of the pet which is then sealed in a transparent material then inserted into the headstone.
3. A Personalised Imaged Headstone as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 2 wherein a computerised image of an innate object, such as an urn or a casket, which is recreated by means of computerised programming of a photograph of the innate object which is then laser printed onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact replica of the innate object which is then sealed in a transparent material then inserted into the headstone.
4. A Personalised Imaged Headstone as claimed in Claims 1 Claim 2 and Claim 3 wherein a computerised image of a living person is recreated by means of computerised programming and processing of a photograph of the living person which is then laser etched printed onto gold or silver or any hard based material with a smooth surface to recreate the photograph as an exact replica of the living person which is then sealed in a transparent material then inserted into the headstone.
5. A Personalised Imaged Headstone substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawing.



Application No: GB 9615774.8
Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: Graham Russell
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Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.O): B6G (GA); B6J (J4); B6X (XBB)

Int CI (Ed.6): B44B 3/00, 7/00; B44C 1/22, 5/02, 5/04; E04H 13/00

Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2296788 A (STONEMATE) see page 2 lines 13-17 & page 4 line 5	1-5

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.